



WorkFirst Reduction Principles

- **Provide greatest protection possible to the most vulnerable.**
- **Spend our time and money helping those that want the help and on services that lead to employment.**
- **Find savings that can be achieved rapidly.**

Post-TANF Support Services Statistics

- **At least 22% of the WorkFirst support services DSHS authorizes go to families who have exited TANF.**
- **The most commonly authorized WorkFirst support services help people get gas and car repairs.**

Persons with disabilities or special needs may call the Division of Employment and Assistance Programs at (360) 725-4602 to request a hard copy



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

ESA Economic Services
Administration

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION *Building Better Lives*

Post TANF Support Services *July/2005*

Issue

WorkFirst support services for families who exit TANF

Background

Currently, a person qualifies for WorkFirst support services for up to six months post-TANF. DSHS staff are the primary providers of post-TANF support services. ESD operates under the same rules for post-TANF support services as DSHS. Until this program year, ESD provided these services for the most part through the WorkFirst Post-Employment Labor Exchange (WPLEX). While ESD no longer operates WPLEX, they will continue to provide a relatively small amount of services when customers request them. ESD anticipates providing no more than \$300,000 on post-TANF clients in the current program year.

The following discussion identifies the pros and cons of eliminating WorkFirst support services for anyone who is not receiving a TANF grant. The analysis assumes that other post-TANF supports, like childcare assistance, would continue unchanged.

Pros of eliminating post-TANF support services	Cons of eliminating post-TANF support services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meets two of three WorkFirst Reduction principles• Small to moderate dollar savings (see fiscal impact)• Frees up staff time to meet the critical needs of people who are currently on TANF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not meet WorkFirst Reduction principle to “spend our time and money helping those who want the help and on services that lead to employment”• Possible longer stays on TANF or increase in TANF returns• According to an Urban Institute study in 2002, families receiving government support for necessary expenses had a lower chance of returning to welfare than those who did not (about 12% compared with 23%).

Fiscal Impact

Eliminating post-TANF support services would reduce DSHS and ESD WorkFirst program expenditures as follows:

	Program	Total
January through June, SFY 06	\$ 0.6 million	\$621,824
SFY 07	\$ 1.2 million	\$1,243,649